(b) if so, the status of its implementation; and

(b) whether there is any Bill relating to this scheme pending before the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Government has not formulated any compulsory insurance scheme for the Indian workers migrating to the Gulf countries. However, the Government proposes to constitute an Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund.

(b) and (c) The Government has introduced the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 which has provisions for constitution of an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

House building loan/assistance to beedi workers

3036. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(b) whether there is any provision in the new housing policy to provide house building loan to beedi workers from the Employees Provident Fund:

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the eligibility criteria and the rate of interest on house building loan;

(d) whether Government are running or propose to start any scheme to provide assistance to the beedi workers in house building;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of beedi workers benefited by the scheme, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(a) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) There is no separate provision in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for Beedi Workers. As per the existing Scheme the members of the employees' provident fund including beedi workers-with five years membership are entitled to avail benefits of widhrawal for the purchase or construction of dwelling house/flat including the acquisition of a suitable site for the purpose.

Setting up of Central Government Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts

3037. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up any new CGIT cum Labour Courts during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of industrial disputes are pending in the Labour Courts and the Central Government Industrial Tribunals; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to settle these cases, expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Five CGIT-cum-Labour Courts have been set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(a) These CGIT-cum-Labour Courts are located at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow and Nagpur.

(b) As on 31st December, 2002 there are 11,367 cases pending in different CGITs-cum-labour Courts.

(c) There are at present 17 CGIT-cum-Labour Courts functioning in different parts of the country. Five more such Labour Courts are being set up in Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Delhi, Emakulam, and Guwahati during the current financial year. A new scheme of adjudication of disputes through Lok-Adalats has been conceived as a Plan Scheme in the tenth plan.This is likely to reduce the pendency of disputes in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

Functioning of ITCs in Kerala

3038. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ITCs functioning in Kerala without permanent affiliation to the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), district-wise;